

ACT Vocational Specialists

Determining Medicaid Billable Services

In general, MO HealthNet will reimburse only for medically necessary services, which means activities and interventions that are related to an individual's serious mental illness and the functional limitations they face due to the mental illness.

In the context of a vocational specialist working on an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team, this means that billable activities are those interventions that remediate symptoms, teach illness management and recovery skills, and are related to the functional limitations of the person due to their mental illness. This includes the following types of interventions:

- Teaching and modeling generalized skills that will enable the client to be more successful in any job situation, including: self care skills such as proper attire and hygiene; punctuality; time management; prioritizing tasks; coping with stress; problem solving skills, when those skills have been compromised by symptoms of mental illness, the rehabilitation activity is intended to remediate the consequences of mental illness, and the treatment strategies employed can be defended as medically needed.
- Assisting a client in finding and keeping a job while attending to the impact of symptoms of mental illness. This may include assessing their readiness for employment, discussing vocational interests, assisting them to identify opportunities by reviewing want ads and employment notices, helping them make contact with potential employers, practicing interview skills by teaching and modeling appropriate behaviors, habits, and skills conducive to presenting well during job interviews and acquiring employment, accompanying clients to job interviews, and talking to them afterwards about what strategies worked or didn't work, and documenting how these activities are related to the clients treatment plan.

When these types of interventions are provided to the client, the ACT team rate may be billed to either MO HealthNet or to the Department, depending on the client's eligibility status.

PLEASE NOTE: Some clients may have vocational deficits due to factors unrelated to mental illness. Poverty, lack of education and exposure to work settings can all contribute to unemployment. Medicaid funds are not intended to remediate these "social" deficiencies. Some of the above activities also fall under the purview of the Vocational Rehabilitation agency, and collaboration with them is a critical part of supporting the employment goals of ACT clients.

Examples of interventions MO HealthNet (Medicaid) will **not** pay for:

- Transporting the client to and from work, when the sole purpose is taking someone to and from a job or a job interview
- Teaching specific job skills
- Job coaching (i.e. – observing the client in a work situation and then coaching/instructing him on how to better achieve job tasks)
- Supervising a work crew
- Job development without the client being present

When these types of interventions are provided, they may **not** be billed to MO HealthNet.

Some non-Medicaid reimbursable interventions provided by the ACT vocational specialist may be billed to the Department using the Vocational Training – ACT service procedure code:

Vocational Services - ACT

Rate \$17.72 per ¼ hr

Definition: Job coaching, including observation of a client in a work setting and coaching, instructing, teaching how to improve job performance. The intent of this service is to reimburse for vocational activities performed by ACT team staff which are not reimbursable by Medicaid.

Staff Qualification: An individual meeting at a minimum the requirements of a Community Support Worker, employed as the designated vocational specialist on an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team.

Procedure Code: H2023HK